

# MANAGING ADULT FAN BEHAVIOR WHAT WORKS?

# IHSAA Presentors:

IHSAA = Indiana High School Athletic Association

Mike Mossbrucker CAA, Athletic Director  
Mooresville High School

Dan Armstrong CAA, Athletic Director  
Northwestern High School/Middle School

# SETTING FAN EXPECTATIONS

- **Communication**

- Written
- Signs
- Social Media
- Game Announcements

- **Training**

- Event Supervisors, Ticket-takers, Concession Workers (all involved)
- Need to know behavior expectations

# SETTING FAN EXPECTATIONS

- **Build Relationships with Fans**

- Do they know your expectations?

- Sportsmanship Statement

- Read by athlete(s)

- Parent Meeting(s)

- NFHS video(s)

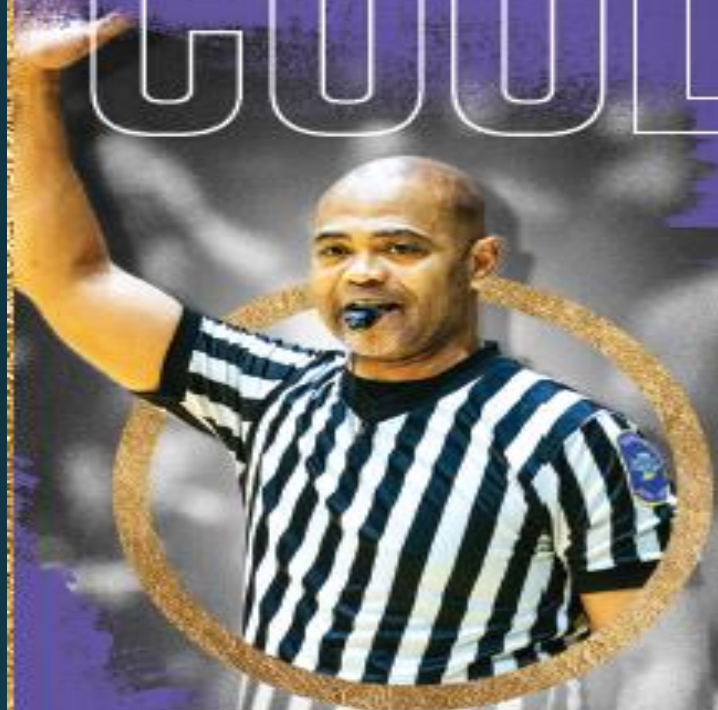
- <https://mhspioneers.com/parent-meeting-videos/>

- IHSAA Parent Seat Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zd1t3AILzKU&feature=youtu.be>

- IHSAA Pamphlet

# COOL



# IT

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

The IHSAA Board of Directors is encouraging school administrators and licensed high school officials to strictly enforce the following new IHSAA By-Law:

*Any fan who is ejected from a contest for an unsportsmanlike act the first time during a sports season shall be suspended from the next contest. Any fan who is ejected from a contest for an unsportsmanlike act the second time shall be suspended from the next two contests.*

Unacceptable parent and fan behavior will not be tolerated at IHSAA sanctioned events.

SPORTS *Mom* SHIP

SPORTS *Dad* SHIP

PRACTICE IT



IHSAA.org



ivyTech.edu

# HEY!

*Mom*  
&  
*Dad*



IHSAA.org

## **POOR ADULT BEHAVIOR AT HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC EVENTS HAS REACHED EPIDEMIC PROPORTION.**

In a recent survey of all 412 IHSAA member-schools' athletic directors, 96.4% reported that the behavior of the parents and other adult fans continues to be a significant problem at their high schools. And in a national survey of more than 2,000 athletic directors, 62.3% say parent behavior is among their top three concerns.

There's a ripple effect to bad parent behavior, and we're experiencing it. Almost 80% of all high school officials quit after the first two years on the job. As a result, there is a growing shortage of high school officials, and in some sports the shortage is severe.

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION BY

## **FOLLOWING THESE SIX SIMPLE RULES:**

# 1

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### **Act Your Age.**

You are, in fact, an adult. Behave accordingly.

# 2

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### **Don't Live Your Life Vicariously Through Your Children.**

Participating in high school sports is their experience, not yours. And your family's reputation is not determined by how your children perform on the field of play.

# 3

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### **Let Your Children Own Their Decisions, Whether Good or Bad.**

Don't be a helicopter or lawnmower parent by mowing down all the obstacles in their path. If you do, you'll be robbing them of the opportunity to be more self-reliant, confident and accountable.

# 4

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### **Stay In Your Own Lane.**

No coaching or officiating from the sidelines or bleachers. Let the coaches do the coaching and the officials do the officiating while you focus on being a responsible, supportive parent.

# 5

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### **Remember, Participation In High School Sports Is Not an Investment In a College Scholarship.**

According to statistics compiled by the NCAA, only about 2% of all high school athletes are awarded a sports scholarship, and the total value of it is only about \$18,000.

# 6

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### **Make Sure Your Children Know You're Proud of Them.**

Don't make the car ride home from the game a miserable experience for your child or for you. The primary emphasis of high school sports is about learning and having fun.

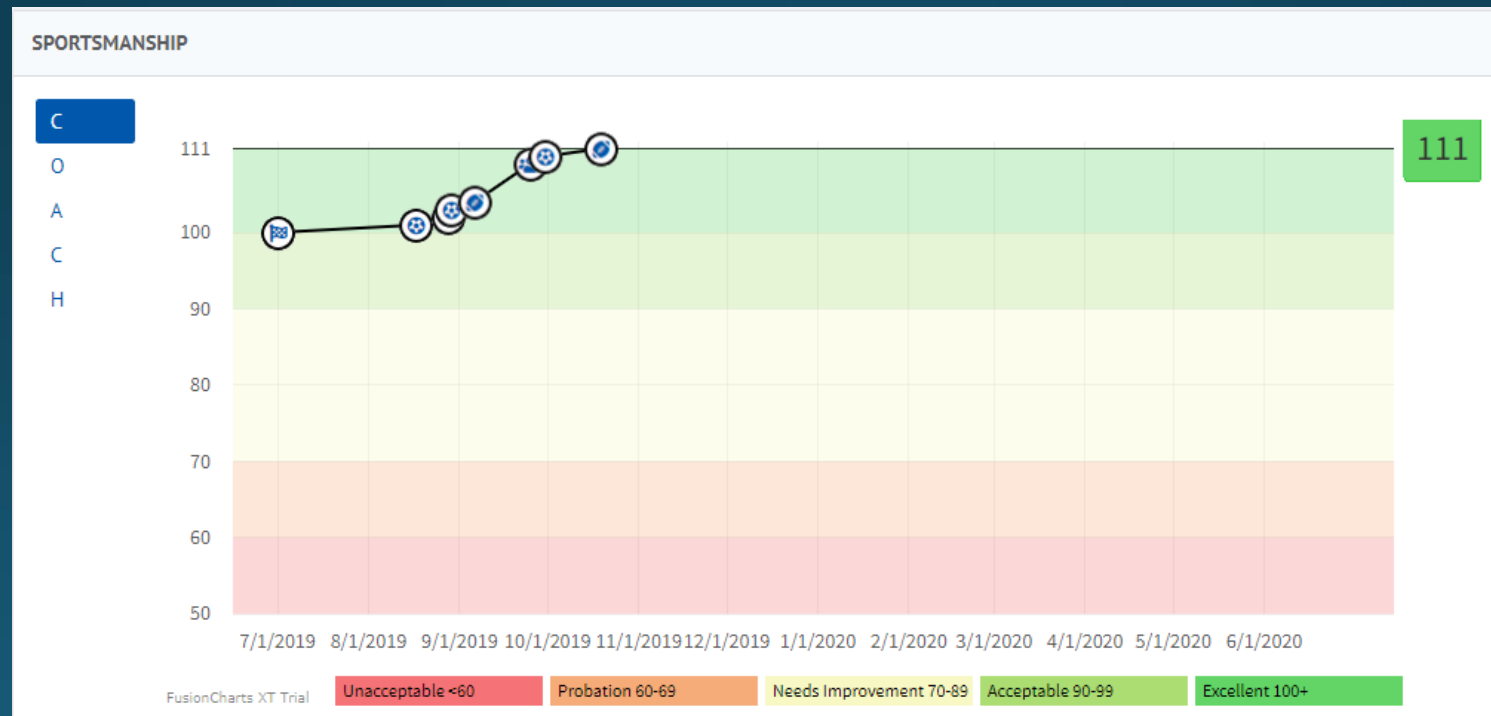
# IHSAA Sportsmanship

- **Sportsmanship**

- Sportsmanship is a “learned trait”
- IHSAA Sportsmanship Committee
- IHSAA Sportsmanship Page
- Sportsmanship Score

- **Reward Acts of Good Sportsmanship**

- Sportsmanship Pins
- Exemplary Sportsmanship Report



# Role of Administration/Supervisors

- **Be Visible and Communicate** with Fans in a Positive Manner
- **Be Visible and Communicate** with Opposing Team/Coaches
- **Be Visible and Communicate** with Officials
  - They should know your location during event
  - Escort to and from Field of Play
- **PROXIMITY:** Stop Behavior Before it Reaches the Level of Ejection or Violence
  - Be in position to deal with unruly fans
  - Be proactive once identified
    - Don't Wait to Talk to a Fan



# Creating a Positive Environment

## • Event Set Up

- Signage Displayed
  - Entrance, Pricing, Restrooms, Concession Stands
  - Seating: Home, Visitor, Student
- Fan/Worker Interactions

## • Music

- Imbedded in Music Programs Pre-Game/During Game, etc.
  - Positive Atmosphere
  - Music Playlist: No profanity, No Violence, No Alcohol, No Drugs

## • Security

- Security is Visible to Fans at All Times
- Positive and Interact with Fans
- Available Quickly When Needed

# Be Proactive

- **Coaches Meeting(s)**
  - Define Sportsmanship Expectations to Coaches
    - Set the Standard for Fans and Athletes
    - Reinforced at EVERY Coaches Meeting
- **Parent Meeting(s) Are Continuous**
  - Reinforce Sportsmanship Statements Made at Initial Meeting
  - Send Out Articles/Reminders/Links, etc. throughout the Season

# What To Do When an Incident Occurs

- **Removal from Event**

- Escort off of Premise
  - If Fan Refuses, Don't Be Afraid to Pause the Event

- **Consequences of Fan Ejection**

- Call Parent/Fan in for Meeting to Discuss Their Future as a Spectator at your Events
- Conduct contract